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## Fifth Committee

**Summary record of the 66th meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 17 May 2000, at 10 a.m.

*Chairman:* Ms. Wensley ..... (Australia)
*Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions:* Mr. Mselle

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

**Agenda item 151: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations** (*continued*) (A/C.5/54/55)

**(a) Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations** (*continued*)

*Support account* (*continued*) (A/54/797, A/54/800 and A/54/832)

*Reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment* (*continued*) (A/54/765, A/54/795 and A/54/826; A/C.5/54/49)

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**(c) Relocation of South Africa to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/232** (*continued*) (A/53/1009)

1. **Mr. Galuska** (Czech Republic) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Portugal on behalf of the European Union but would like to address a few additional issues.

2. Since its establishment in 1993, the Czech Republic had participated actively in peacekeeping, making it a high priority of its foreign policy. It was therefore deeply concerned at the constant high level of unpaid dues for peacekeeping operations as well as the growing debt to troop contributors.

3. The current peacekeeping assessment formula had been created under completely different political circumstances and no longer reflected current realities. It did not sufficiently take into account capacity to pay and the changing economic performance of Member States. His delegation was pleased that the issue of a comprehensive revision of the peacekeeping scale of assessments was on the Committee's agenda. When the Czech Republic had joined the United Nations in 1993 it had asked to be placed in category C because of the economic difficulties it was experiencing. However, owing to the lack of any transparent criteria for placement, it had been allocated to category B, and had contributed much more to the peacekeeping budget than States with comparable economic indicators in category C.

4. His Government was prepared to bear its share of peacekeeping expenses in the future, but it considered the current financing methodology unfair. It was concerned at the pace of the negotiations, but remained optimistic that the overall reform would be implemented in the near future. It was prepared to discuss any changes to the system that were based on clear economic criteria. The current system could not be improved simply by moving some States from one group to another. It must be thoroughly reviewed to take into account objective criteria, in particular the level of economic development of Member States. His delegation could agree to consider the establishment of more categories, based on national per capita income among other criteria, and was open to other innovative proposals. All States Members of the United Nations, and the Organization itself, would undoubtedly benefit from a new and equitable methodology for peacekeeping assessments.

5. **Mr. Kolby** (Norway) said that, faced with the recent upsurge in peacekeeping, the international community must make a commitment to ensure that the Organization had the capacity to carry out the increasingly complex tasks of maintaining peace and security. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations should be adequately structured and staffed to make it capable of planning, deploying and managing multifunctional missions; that meant that adequate resources must be secured both from the regular budget and from the support account. His delegation concurred with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the establishment of 67 additional temporary posts to be funded from the support account and the establishment of two new posts in the Training Unit. There was a need for enhanced rapid deployment capacity within the Department, and the proposal regarding the establishment of a Rapid Deployment Management Unit should be reviewed by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

6. His delegation supported the recommendations of the Phase V Working Group. Although the Working Group had not been able to review the rates for major equipment and self-sustainment, it had established a

mechanism for reviewing the rates in the future. The new contingent-owned equipment (COE) system was also a major improvement over the standby arrangements system, and would assist the Secretariat in the timely finalization of memorandums of understanding or contribution agreements. The Secretariat should also speed up the work on applying a cut-off date for the conversion of all existing missions to the new COE procedures.

7. His delegation would like to encourage the Secretary-General to develop further the concept of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi. Its use for forward deployment of equipment was vital in moving equipment rapidly to a new area of operation. The Field Assets Control System (FACS) must also be further developed.

8. His delegation had given its support to the European Union proposal for a reform package comprised of payment of arrears, revision of the regular budget and peacekeeping scales, a set of incentives and disincentives and measures to increase efficiency.

9. **Ms. Pajula** (Estonia) said her delegation hoped that discussions on the reform of the current scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations would begin as soon as possible. It was pleased that the United States of America had joined the European Union in advocating a review of that scale.

10. The willingness of nations to give aid to those in need was one of the cornerstones of the Organization. Peacekeeping was a collective responsibility which all Member States should be prepared to support. However, the current scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations was outdated and ran counter to that shared commitment. Her delegation trusted that serious discussions at all levels would lead to the development of objective criteria for a fair and updated scale. In that connection, Estonia was willing to forgo the 80-per-cent discount from which it currently benefited as a member of the group set out in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/232.

11. **Mr. Mabilangan** (Philippines) said that peacekeeping remained an indispensable instrument for the maintenance of international peace and security and that the United Nations continued to play a crucial role in that area. In the past year, the number, size and scope of peacekeeping operations had expanded dramatically, while resources had declined. He was concerned to note that Member States owed the United Nations over $2 billion for the financing of various peacekeeping operations. The non-payment of assessed contributions resulted in the late reimbursement of countries that provided troops and equipment and placed an unnecessary burden on those countries, especially developing countries. Any further delay in reimbursement could jeopardize those countries' participation in future United Nations peacekeeping activities. All Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions.

12. Like many other countries, the Philippines would like to put the financing of peacekeeping operations on a solid foundation by reviewing the current ad hoc arrangement for the apportionment of the expenses. Any new arrangement must be perceived as fair and equitable and must reflect contemporary political and economic realities. His delegation was open to any proposals aimed at achieving those objectives. The review of the peacekeeping scale must also continue to reflect the principles which had governed the current arrangement for the last 27 years and which remained fully valid, such as the greater capacity to pay of economically more developed countries, the limited capacity to pay of economically less developed countries and the special financial responsibility of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

13. As a founding member of the United Nations, the Philippines gave priority to ensuring that the Organization's peacekeeping capacity was strengthened, not weakened. Accordingly, despite its limited resources, it had chosen to participate in a number of peacekeeping operations, including those in Kosovo and East Timor. The recent events in Sierra Leone pointed to the need to guarantee the future of peacekeeping and its financing. His delegation therefore called for a general agreement on a revised peacekeeping scale that was fair and equitable. All Member States must provide the Organization with the political and financial support it needed to maintain international peace and security more effectively and efficiently. To that end, the Philippines was willing to forgo the 80-per-cent discount currently granted to it in the assessment of its peacekeeping contributions, as an expression of its strong commitment to global and regional peace and security in general and to a continuing effective presence in East Timor, in particular.

14. **Mr. Lozinski** (Russian Federation) said that, if the Organization was to meet the new challenges posed by the unprecedented increase in United Nations peacekeeping activities, there was a clear need for practical measures to place those activities on a sound financial footing and the issue of the apportionment of peacekeeping expenses must be addressed.

15. A number of delegations had suggested that the Committee should look anew at the proposals made during the intensive negotiations that had preceded the adoption in 1973 of the ad hoc arrangements on which the current system of financing peacekeeping operations was based. With the necessary adjustments, those proposals might provide a good framework for the Committee's discussions. The Committee should also take into account the various ideas on reform of the peacekeeping scale of assessments put forward in the context of the High-level Open-ended Working Group on the Financial Situation of the United Nations.

16. The principle of the special responsibility of the permanent members of the Security Council in the financing of United Nations peacekeeping activities was incontrovertible. The Russian Federation, as a permanent member of the Council, had borne, and would continue to bear, additional financial obligations in relation to the peacekeeping budget.

17. Any reform of the peacekeeping scale must be undertaken in accordance with existing procedures, on the basis of consensus, and must be subject to strict compliance by all Member States with their financial obligations to the Organization. Despite its continuing financial difficulties, the Russian Federation paid its contributions to the regular budget in full and was steadily reducing its arrears with respect to the peacekeeping budget. His delegation stood ready to engage in constructive cooperation on the issue of reform of the peacekeeping scale, which should be the subject of intensive multilateral consultations.

18. **Mr. Prendergast** (Jamaica) said that his delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Nigeria at the Committee's 65th meeting on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. United Nations peacekeeping operations helped Member States to fulfil their collective responsibility to resolve threats to international peace and security. It was therefore imperative that those operations should have adequate resources. Currently, the Organization faced problems in that area, but it continued to establish new peacekeeping operations with complex mandates requiring huge financial commitments.

19. His delegation agreed that the financing of peacekeeping operations was the collective responsibility of Member States, which should pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. Relying entirely or in part on voluntary contributions to finance missions undermined that principle and resulted in unequal treatment. All missions must therefore be financed through the assessed contributions of Member States in order to ensure equity and to enable them to discharge their mandates effectively.

20. Peace-building played an important role in cementing the gains made through peacekeeping. In that context, his delegation wished to express its support for the activities of the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti (MICAH) and called for all missions that had moved from a peacekeeping to a post-conflict peace-building mandate to be given adequate support and funding.

21. **Mr. Muchetwa** (Zimbabwe) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The African continent had witnessed more United Nations peacekeeping failures than any other region. On some occasions, the United Nations had found it easier to ignore Africa in its hour of need than to mandate and equip a peacekeeping mission that could have saved the day. On more numerous occasions, the United Nations had found excuses to drag its feet while crises in Africa had flared up. Even in cases in which African subregional arrangements had stepped in to contain situations in anticipation of Security Council assistance, the United Nations had remained aloof. Currently, the United Nations risked squandering the opportunities for peace which the Lomé Agreement and the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement had created in Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Repeated pleas by African leaders for a robust Chapter VII peacekeeping mandate in Sierra Leone had been spurned. The half-hearted efforts made in that country had seriously undermined the Organization's credibility and called into question its commitment to peacekeeping, particularly in Africa.

22. The lack of political will to provide resources commensurate with peacekeeping mandates had often

resulted in inadequate mandates or no mandates at all. Owing to the financial crisis caused by the non-payment of assessed contributions, the Organization had often been forced to deploy ill-equipped peacekeeping missions. That did not augur well for an institution that was uniquely mandated to maintain international peace and security. Member States must honour their Charter obligations by paying their dues to the Organization, as the first step towards improving the financing of peacekeeping operations.

23. Any review of the scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations must continue to reflect the special responsibility of the permanent members of the Security Council, the capacity of economically more developed countries to make relatively larger contributions and the limited capacity of economically less developed countries to contribute to peacekeeping. Any significant modification of the scale must take into account the economic conditions of low-income developing countries and must not adversely affect their current position. The general principles and guidelines for the apportionment of peacekeeping expenses should remain in place. The approach taken to the development of mechanisms to ensure adequate peacekeeping financing must not be one of trial and error. Adequate time should be allotted to the consideration of the issue to allow delegations to formulate their positions and to ensure that the interests of all Member States were taken into account. Lastly, care must be taken to avoid making the scale even more unstable and uncertain.

24. **Mr. Lancry** (Israel) said that he welcomed the reform initiatives which the Secretariat had taken over the past two years. Recent events had increased and highlighted the urgency of reforming the scale of assessments and the budget for peacekeeping operations, but such reform had been necessary for some time. Disparities in the distribution of wealth and resources had widened and the burden of offsetting them had been distributed unevenly. Israel therefore supported a comprehensive reform of the scales of assessments for both the regular budget and peacekeeping operations. Moreover, it was willing to be relocated from group C to group B and to forgo the 80-per-cent discount which had thus far been applied to its peacekeeping contributions. At the current critical time for United Nations peacekeeping, the Member States should join forces to ensure that the Organization was prepared to meet the global challenges of the twenty-first century.

25. **Mr. Sun Joun-yung** (Republic of Korea) said that his Government attached great importance to United Nations peacekeeping, which was among the Organization's most visible and significant activities. In view of the recent large expansion of peacekeeping operations, the Organization needed a more stable and equitable financing mechanism in order to meet its vital commitments. Since 1973, peacekeeping missions had been financed on an ad hoc basis and as the number of Member States and the global economy had changed a great deal since then, a comprehensive review of the current system's strengths and shortcomings was necessary. His delegation therefore supported the discussion of the scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations during the current part of the resumed session and at the fifty-fifth session with a view to improving the transparency and stability of peacekeeping financing. It also looked forward to participating in informal consultations on the subject, as suggested by a number of delegations.

26. The Republic of Korea had consistently supported United Nations peacekeeping activities and had contributed troops to the operations in East Timor, Western Sahara and Angola. It therefore attached growing importance to the need to enhance the transparency of the decision-making process concerning the dispatch of peacekeepers. Since peacekeeping assessments would far exceed regular budget assessments in the coming year, particular attention must be paid to the appropriate evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of peacekeeping operations.

27. **Mr. Estévez-López** (Guatemala) said that his delegation associated itself with the views expressed on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations and on the scale of assessments for such operations. As a country which had benefited directly from a United Nations peace-building mission, Guatemala recognized the enormous importance of the Organization's peace efforts. The United Nations was probably the only organization with the credibility and moral authority to conduct such operations. However, the recent events in Sierra Leone showed how dangerous those activities could be, particularly when they were underfunded. In the area of peacekeeping, it could not be assumed that a modest presence was better than no presence at all.

The Organization had suffered serious setbacks owing to the systematic underfunding of peacekeeping activities as a result of the reluctance of the major contributors to live up to their responsibilities. The use made of the conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peace-building instruments provided for under the Charter should be judicious, but also unobstructed; when Member States committed themselves to such activities, they should do so with the wholeheartedness required to ensure their success.

28. The question of how to apportion the costs of such activities among Governments arose in relation to any type of activity of any intergovernmental organization. In such cases, certain criteria were usually applied, such as capacity to pay or the equal division of expenses. Often, those considerations were weighted to take other factors into account, such as the assignment of a larger share of the costs to the host country in view of the benefits derived by the latter. The point was that any set of criteria was valid as long as it enjoyed consensus. Currently, there was no consensus in the United Nations regarding either the peacekeeping scale or the regular budget scale. Despite the difficulty of breaking with past practice, the problem must be addressed for the sake of the Organization. His delegation therefore agreed that a dialogue should be initiated on that controversial subject, which had been made more controversial by the manner in which it had been brought before the Committee. In the interests of objectivity, however, the scale of assessments should be reconsidered without regard to the manner in which the issue had been introduced.

29. None of those considerations prejudged the questions of whether or how the scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations should be revised. However, two criteria should be given special importance in any new formula which might be devised: capacity to pay and the disproportionate responsibility of some Members, including the permanent members of the Security Council, for the maintenance of peace in the world.

30. **Mr. Chowdhury** (Bangladesh) said that the Committee must address the crucial issue of the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations in all its aspects so that the outcome of its deliberations would contribute to the enhanced efficiency and effectiveness of those vital activities, which had become extremely complex in recent years. It was important that the Committee should listen to and take into account the concerns of all Member States, particularly the largest contributor. In that connection, he had noted with interest the statement made by the United States representative at the Committee's 65th meeting.

31. The time had come for the Organization to review the ad hoc arrangements for the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations (adopted in 1973). That exercise must be open, transparent, creative and realistic and the focus must be on the best interests of the United Nations. His delegation looked forward to making its contribution. Peacekeeping operations were a collective responsibility and their costs should be borne collectively, bearing in mind the special responsibility of the permanent members of the Security Council.

32. **Mr. Göktürk** (Turkey) noted that the total estimated budgetary requirements for all peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 amounted to more than $2 billion, which represented a significant increase compared with the expenditure incurred in the 12-month period ending 30 June 1999. There had been a similar upward trend in the requirements for the support account, reflecting the increase in United Nations peacekeeping activities.

33. His delegation noted with satisfaction the observation by ACABQ that there had been improvements in the preparation of the budget proposals for individual peacekeeping operations, partly as a result of the implementation by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Advisory Committee's recommendations. Such positive interactions between components of the United Nations system should be enhanced in the future. His delegation also welcomed the increased coordination on administrative and budgetary matters between Headquarters and missions in the field. However, it shared the concern of the Advisory Committee with respect to the screening, selection and timely deployment of civilian police personnel, which should be accorded higher priority.

34. Military and civilian police personnel could be deployed in the required numbers only if Member States contributed contingents, but the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, as the main coordinator of United Nations peacekeeping activities, must also be more effective. It was to be hoped that, following

restructuring, the Department would be better able to cope with its increased workload.

35. His delegation noted with satisfaction the increased emphasis placed on training programmes. Such programmes enabled United Nations peacekeepers to act uniformly, as well as effectively. Turkey had been, and would continue to be, a provider of training.

36. Recent events in various regions had shown that the United Nations still lacked the capacity to react rapidly. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the General Assembly had emphasized repeatedly the need to establish a fully operational rapidly deployable mission headquarters. The Secretary-General's proposal for the creation of a Rapid Deployment Management Unit had yet to be discussed in the relevant forums. It was clear, however, that the structure of the New York base for peacekeeping operations must be overhauled.

37. His Government, which had contributed contingents to missions in spots as far flung as Kosovo and East Timor, was keenly aware of the need to place the Organization's peacekeeping operations on a sound financial footing. The peacekeeping scale of assessments required comprehensive revision. The apportionment of peacekeeping expenses must be fairer, taking into account all relevant economic and financial criteria and reflecting the true capacity of countries to pay. His delegation agreed that the General Assembly should consider the issue during the second part of the resumed session with a view to completing its work at the fifty-fifth session.

38. **Mr. Stańczyk** (Poland) said that his delegation had aligned itself with the statement made by the representative of Portugal on behalf of the European Union. For many years, Poland had been an active participant in peacekeeping operations as a troop contributor and, based on that experience, it understood how vital it was to have an appropriate financing mechanism in place. The fact that peacekeeping was a collective responsibility of all Member States should also be borne in mind.

39. His delegation shared the view that the financial mechanism for peacekeeping would be efficient only if it was based on actual capacity to pay, and it therefore supported the suggestion of the United States delegation that the discussion of the matter should begin immediately, in informal consultations. The shortcomings of the current system were evident, as was the need for its reform.

40. **Mr. Čalovski** (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that peacekeeping operations were a core responsibility of the United Nations. Their success or failure determined to a large extent the credibility and relevance of the Organization. His own region had benefited greatly from the presence of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) on the borders of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with Yugoslavia and Albania. Regrettably, on the eve of the conflict in Kosovo, the Security Council had decided not to extend the mandate of UNPREDEP, and that had adversely affected subsequent developments in the province.

41. The Organization had acquired enormous knowledge and experience in the field of peacekeeping. Its biggest challenge in the future would be to mobilize the necessary political will to enable it to act quickly and forcefully in crisis situations.

42. His delegation agreed that it was necessary to arrive at fairer and more satisfactory arrangements for the apportionment of peacekeeping expenses. There was a need for open-minded and transparent consideration, in informal consultations, of all aspects of the peacekeeping budget. His delegation therefore supported the proposal made by the representative of the United States for a review of the peacekeeping budget and the peacekeeping scale of assessments, and looked forward to participating in that process.

43. **Mr. Bouhadou** (Algeria) said that his delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Nigeria at the Committee's 65th meeting on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. With respect to the proposed review of the peacekeeping scale of assessments, his delegation would have no objection to the holding of consultations on that issue. It considered that every Member State had the right to call for the consideration of issues that it regarded as priorities.

44. In the light of the resurgence and proliferation of regional and civil conflicts, particularly in Africa, and the increasing scale and complexity of the Organization's peacekeeping activities, it was vital that peacekeeping operations should receive adequate financial, human and logistical resources. As of 31 December 1999, the United Nations had owed some $800 million to the Governments of troop-contributing

States, most of which were developing countries. His delegation was concerned that with the current increase in peacekeeping expenses — which had more than doubled since the previous 12-month period — the Organization's arrears to Member States would be accentuated and the already precarious financial situation of the United Nations would be exacerbated, jeopardizing the implementation of the mandates of the peacekeeping missions.

45. Despite its recent economic difficulties, Algeria had always paid its contributions to the regular budget and the peacekeeping budget in full and on time and his delegation considered that all Member States should do likewise. It was ready, however, to take part in negotiations on the reform of the peacekeeping scale established in 1973 and acknowledged that the capacity to pay of many countries had changed fundamentally since that time. There was a need to take into account the special responsibility of the permanent members of the Security Council in the financing of peacekeeping operations, the different capacities of Member States to contribute to such operations and the relatively limited capacity of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, to do so.

46. **Mr. Listre** (Argentina) said that peacekeeping operations were a core function of the Organization and the collective responsibility of all Member States. Argentina had demonstrated its commitment to such operations not only by contributing troops, but also by participating actively in all forums in which the issue was discussed.

47. Some of the arguments put forward for the revision of the scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations were valid, especially since the scale had been adopted in 1973 on an ad hoc basis for the purposes of a specific mission. However, the issue must be considered very carefully, with a view to reaching a consensus and taking into account the serious implications any revision could have for countries, such as Argentina, which were currently classified in group C. Should Argentina be relocated to group B, it would have to pay five times its current assessed contribution for peacekeeping operations. In other words, its contribution would increase from the current level of $3.8 million to $19 million, and to about $25 million in 2001. That excessive increase would be unbearable, and Argentina would oppose such an extreme measure. It was unrealistic to expect a country such as Argentina, which faced severe budgetary constraints, to begin automatically to pay five times the amount currently assessed. His delegation shared the views expressed by other delegations, particularly that of Mexico, to the effect that the greatest responsibility for financing peacekeeping operations should be borne by the permanent members of the Security Council, which should absorb most of the costs of any change in the current peacekeeping scale.

48. **Ms. Buergo Rodriguez** (Cuba) said that her delegation welcomed the performance report on the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 (A/54/797), and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/54/832). It took note of the unutilized balance of $1,578,400 and concurred with the proposal of the Secretary-General that that balance should be applied to support account requirements for the period 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001. It concurred with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 3 and 4 of its report (A/54/832) and stressed the need for precise and detailed information regarding training activities in order to explain the disparities between the provision of assistance to developing and developed countries.

49. With regard to the estimates for the period 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001, her delegation sought confirmation that the level of human and financial resources requested was adequate, considering the growth in peacekeeping operations. The proposed establishment of a Rapid Deployment Management Unit at Headquarters would mean a significant change in the concept of peacekeeping management. Her delegation was concerned about the new concept being introduced in the context of the budget and the support account before being discussed in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Fourth Committee. General Assembly procedures and decisions should be upheld, and the Committee could take up the financial requirements for the Unit once those bodies had reached a decision.

50. The General Assembly, in resolution 53/12, had approved the establishment of two P-4 posts for the Unit, but since the Unit had not yet been established, those two posts should be removed from the staffing table and the budget proposal should be adjusted to reflect that decrease. Her delegation was concerned that the Advisory Committee had included in its report substantive comments on the Secretary-General's proposal before the proposal had been approved by the

competent intergovernmental mechanism; that was unacceptable.

51. Given the clear duplication and overlap of functions among some of the activities of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Management, her delegation believed that the situation should be monitored closely and that future reports on the support account should contain detailed information on the changes made and their impact on management. The avoidance of such duplications should be an integral part of reform efforts.

52. Her delegation fully supported the request by South Africa for reclassification. It also endorsed the statements made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on that matter and on the peacekeeping scale of assessments.

53. Her delegation had noted the interest of some delegations in revising the scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations and it believed that the procedures for the inclusion of new items in the agenda of the General Assembly should be followed.

54. **Mr. Morales** (Panama) said that, while his delegation could not object to the periodic review of the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations, the haste with which such a substantive issue as the scale of assessments was being considered did raise some concerns.

55. His delegation had taken note, in particular, of the view expressed by the representative of the United States of America that the Organization had decided to rely much more on peacekeeping operations in a wide variety of complex situations, even though it had failed to update its system for doing so, and that, following the events in Sierra Leone, the United Nations must renew its commitment to enhancing the effectiveness of its peacekeeping operations. He took that to mean that the Organization should physically intervene in civil wars and situations that were different from those in which it had intervened historically. His delegation was of the view, however, that a clear distinction should be drawn between situations of internal political conflict and situations that posed a threat to peace in a given region. In the case of internal conflicts, recourse should be had to such forums for peaceful settlement as regional organizations, the Commission on Human Rights and other functional commissions of the United Nations, all of which were aimed at strengthening democratic institutions.

56. His delegation agreed that there was a need for increased efforts to maintain international peace and security. The operation in Sierra Leone, however, did not constitute sufficient justification for policy changes, including a review of the scale of assessments. What was needed was for all Members to fulfil their obligations to the Organization and for the permanent members of the Security Council to assume their special responsibilities for the financing of peacekeeping operations fully and unconditionally.

57. **Mr. Yel'chenko** (Ukraine) said that adequate funding was crucial to the effective functioning of United Nations peacekeeping operations, which had expanded greatly in recent years. The current ad hoc peacekeeping scale should be replaced by a stable, transparent, equitable and effective mechanism based on objective economic criteria. Ukraine, which had been adversely affected by the rigidity of the peacekeeping scale during the period of rapid growth in peacekeeping activities in the mid-1990s, had always advocated the apportionment of peacekeeping expenses based on the principles of the collective responsibility of Member States, capacity to pay as measured by per capita gross national product, and recognition of the special responsibility of the permanent members of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security and of the fact that the capacity of the economically less developed countries to contribute was relatively limited.

58. **Mr. Erdos** (Hungary) said that peacekeeping was one of the Organization's most important and highly visible activities. The substantial increase in the number and scope of peacekeeping operations made it even more imperative that the Organization should be provided with adequate resources to enable it to cope with the challenges it faced. The current peacekeeping scale was outdated and contained certain anomalies. It should therefore be the subject of a comprehensive review aimed at creating a system for the financing of peacekeeping operations that was based on the principle of capacity to pay. He announced that Hungary had decided to renounce voluntarily the discount it currently enjoyed as a result of its group C status. Implementation of that decision would take place at the appropriate time in the light of the relevant

discussions in the Committee. Due account would also have to be taken of the need for Hungary to readjust to its new place in the peacekeeping scale, which would entail considerable additional expenses, and for a gradual increase in the share of the peacekeeping budget borne by a number of States.

59. In the current period of severe crises and challenges, it was essential for the Organization to preserve its credibility by demonstrating the required level of determination and acting without undue delay to preserve international legality and help countries to avoid the nightmare of lawlessness and civil strife. If there was one lesson to be learnt from previous experience, it was that the United Nations needed to move in at the right time, with adequate resources and with the right mandates. The announcement he had made should be construed as a contribution towards resolving the outstanding issues related to the peacekeeping scale and enhancing the international community's ability to come to grips with the unprecedented challenges of the times.

60. **Mr. Castellon** (Nicaragua) said that his delegation shared the concerns that had been expressed over the Organization's peacekeeping activities. Peace was an essential requirement for development and all Member States should therefore attach the greatest importance to programmes aimed at promoting peace.

61. While the peacekeeping scale of assessments should indeed be revised to make it fairer and more equitable, any revision should take into account the commitments and obligations of those States that had the resources and capacity to make a larger contribution to the implementation of measures for the maintenance of international peace and security. Responsibility, however, should not be placed on the shoulders of only one or a few Member States. The debate on the new scale should be broad-based and reflect the commitment of all Member States to peace and the survival of mankind.

62. **Mr. Naidu** (Fiji) said that, if peace and security for all the peoples of the world were to remain among the core functions of the United Nations, then it was imperative for the Committee to discuss the subject with an open mind. With the escalation of the cost of peacekeeping operations, there was no hope of containing the level of expenditure. For that reason, the issue must be discussed holistically, that, of course, included financing.

63. Most of the least developed and developing countries could not carry any additional financial burden in the form of contributions to the United Nations budget. However, the troop-contributing countries, particularly the developing countries, should not be penalized during the current impasse by not being reimbursed in a timely way. Member States must pay their dues in full and on time so that those countries could be reimbursed and could continue to participate in future missions.

64. **Mr. Spirollari** (Albania) said that the United Nations played a very important role in resolving political and social conflicts and maintaining peace and security throughout the world. Albania was grateful to the peacekeeping forces whose presence in the Balkans had prevented a humanitarian catastrophe and further conflict in the region. At the same time, however, the problems faced by the peacekeeping forces in Kosovo, Macedonia, Bosnia and Sierra Leone pointed to the need for a review of peacekeeping activities.

65. His delegation fully supported the United States proposal that the scale of contributions to peacekeeping operations should be reviewed. A solution to the concerns that had been raised would strengthen the Organization's role in the maintenance of international peace and security. Peacekeeping was a collective responsibility and increased contributions from Member States would not only expand their role in world affairs but would also enable the Organization to take action in the right places and at the right time.

66. **Mr. Mutaboba** (Rwanda) said that, instead of giving up, the United Nations should address the root causes that had led to the failure of many of its peacekeeping operations. Africa, which had borne the brunt of such failures, should not be left to its fate. The continent continued to suffer from injustices that were sometimes self-imposed and from double standards that were imposed from outside, sometimes by the United Nations itself.

67. Genuine reform of the scale of assessments was therefore needed now more than ever and should be viewed in the context of comprehensive reform of the Organization, including reform in the priority area of the maintenance of international peace and security. While others spoke of scales of assessment, Africans spoke of reforms to give the continent the peace and security that it needed for a better future. The Organization could not continue to work on the basis of

wrong and unfair premises while hoping to devise a fair and realistic framework for future operations.

68. **Mr. Mirhohamad** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation supported the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Advisory Committee's report on the support account for peacekeeping operations (A/54/832), in particular the recommendation contained in paragraph 35 thereof. The Secretariat should provide additional information on the concept of the rapidly deployable mission headquarters and its staffing requirements. On the question of the scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations, his delegation supported the position of the Group of 77 and China.

69. **Ms. Topic** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that the question of the peacekeeping scale of assessments was of crucial importance to the core function and future of the United Nations. In an age of increasing conflict, peacekeeping seemed to have become the Organization's tool of choice for peace-building and peace enforcement. Timely deployment of peacekeepers saved lives, assisted in rebuilding State infrastructure and alleviated human suffering. In order to meet the challenges, financial support for peacekeeping should therefore not be based on ad hoc arrangements or on conditionality, but rather on stable support structures.

70. The steady decline in the share of the peacekeeping budget contributed by the permanent members of the Security Council raised a number of issues, such as the role of the five permanent members in decision-making on peacekeeping matters and the role of the Organization's other Members. The approach adopted should ensure that States whose economic circumstances improved paid their fair share, while those whose economic circumstances deteriorated were given the appropriate automatic decrease.

71. Members of the Organization had a collective responsibility to provide the resources that were needed for peacekeeping operations in Africa and other emergency areas. Her delegation also believed, however, that the earlier failures had been due more to the lack of will on the part of the most powerful and capable Member States rather than to a lack of vision within the Secretariat. Lessons learnt must be translated into action in response to situations that threatened peace and the lives of millions of men, women and children.

72. She wished to point out that the scale of assessments for both the peacekeeping and the regular budgets concerned only States Members of the Organization and that, pursuant to Security Council resolution 777 (1992), the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had ceased to exist in 1992. Clarification of the name of the State was therefore needed before any assessment could apply to Yugoslavia after that date.

*The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.*